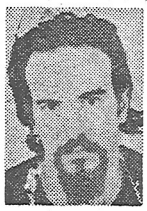

SORSBY

WABLES

GRAVES

St. Petersburg Fla Times 11/27/67

3 Men Charged In 'Crucifixion' Back In State

WEST PALM BEACH (AP) — Sheriff William Heidtman brought three grimy fugitive motorcyclists back to Florida yesterday after chasing them 1,600 miles in three days on charges they "crucified" a girl club member on the limb of an oak tree.

Two other members of the Outlaws Motorcycle Club have been jailed on the same charges — aggravated assault — since Nov. 14 and Heidtman said the roundup is complete.

HE TURNED OVER the three to Florida Gov. Claude Kirk who was waiting at the airport when Heidtman and two lieutenants from his department brought the trio back from Detroit, finishing the trip in a private charter flight from Atlanta.

Surrounded by jackets, steel belts and heavy iron crosses laid on the ground in an airport news conference, Kirk said he was there so the arrests would be publicized.

"This bunch of bums has got the word they're not welcome in Florida," Kirk said. "I hope young thrill-seeking girls who go with them know now they can get their fingers burned — in this case, their hands nailed."

"EVEN SOME of the Outlaws were shocked at the crucifixion," Sheriff Heidtman said. "This organization nationally is going to wind up being busted entirely because of this incident. I think our troubles with the Outlaws are ended."

The three — two of them bearded, all dirty and shorn of the distinctive riding vests adorned with chains and badges which they call their "colors" — were Donald "Mangy" Graves, 18 of Detroit, Joe "Super Squirrel" Sorsby Jr., 19, of Houston, Tex., and John "Crazy John" Wables, 24, of Warren, Mich. They were then held in county jail.

Already under arrest were Frank E. "Fat Frank" Link, 25, of Cypress, Calif., and Norman "Spider" Risinger, 25, of Tampa.

THE GIRL, Christine Deese, 18, a freckled, redhead, was under protective custody and deputies said she has given detailed statements about crimes committed by members of the Outlaws.

She said the club members drove 4-inch spikes into her hands Nov. 10, nailing her outstretched arms to the limb of an oak, for withholding $10 from a club member. Heidtman said her toes just reached the ground.

Members of the club sat in a circle around the girl for 15 minutes as part of the "punishment ceremony," Heidtman said, before nails were pulled out and the girl taken to a hospital.